



# MORGAN HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Travel Security

Traveling, whether for business or pleasure, can be a wonderful experience, if you follow these commonsense tips.

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Use this handy checklist to prepare your home before you leave on your trip:

- Sign up for a vacation check by clicking [here](#) (Link to Vacation Check)
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery
- Leave shades and blinds in normal positions.
- Put at least two lights and a radio on automatic timers.
- Ask a neighbor to keep your property maintained, if need be (grass mowed, snow shoveled).
- Have someone park a car in your driveway occasionally.
- Leave a key with a trusted neighbor in case of emergency.
- Lock all windows and doors before you go. Don't forget to double-check the basement and garage doors.
- Make a record of your passport, credit card and traveler's check numbers, as well as plane, train, or bus tickets. Give a copy of the list to a family member or friend for safekeeping.

### ON THE ROAD

- Carry little cash. Use traveler's checks, ATM cards, or credit cards whenever possible.
- Keep careful tabs on your plane, train or bus tickets - they're as good as cash.
- If you're driving, plan your route carefully. Travel on main roads and use maps. Have your car serviced before you leave.
- If you're stopping overnight, remove luggage and other valuables from the car.
- When stopping en route, conceal obvious valuables from sight, preferably in the trunk.
- If your car breaks down, turn on the flasher and open the hood or tie a white cloth to the antenna. If anyone stops to offer help, ask them to call the police.

### IN YOUR HOTEL OR MOTEL

- Don't leave your luggage unattended anywhere.
- Use all auxiliary locking devices when occupying or leaving your room.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle or hotel room. Place them in the hotel safe deposit box. Always take cash, credit cards and keys with you.
- Locate fire exits, elevators, and public phones. Plan the best way to get out of the building in an emergency.
- Check your belongings daily. Arrange your things in the closet or dresser so you will know immediately if something is missing.

- Leave the TV on in your room when you leave to make it seem occupied.
- Be observant. Report any suspicious activity to management.
- Look around before entering parking lots or garages. Park near lighted walkways when possible.
- Do not answer the door in a hotel or motel room without verifying who it is. If a person claims to be an employee, call the front desk and ask if someone from the staff is supposed to have access to your room, and why.

## **IN YOUR NEW ENVIRONMENT**

- Carry your purse close to your body - don't let it dangle. Carry your wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket.
- Learn about your surroundings. Ask the hotel/motel clerk about problem areas and avoid them.
- Select sightseeing companies and guides carefully.
- Make sure everyone in your party, including children, knows the name, address, and telephone number of your hotel or motel.
- Avoid advertising that you are a tourist by the way you dress.
- Carry only the cash that you need, and in small denominations.
- Don't flash your cash or jewelry.
- If members of the group go off separately, be sure to check in at prearranged times.

## **KEEPING FIT ON THE ROAD**

There is no reason to cancel your daily fitness routine just because you are traveling - as long as you take some commonsense precautions:

- When jogging or walking, team up with a partner - a friend, colleague, or family member - especially if you go out early in the morning or late at night.
- Check to see if your hotel/motel has a health club or has access to one you can use.
- Avoid isolated roads, trails, and paths. Stick to well-lighted routes. Vary your exercise time and route.
- Wear clothing that make you visible to motorists - bright colors for day and white or reflective clothes at night. Always carry identification.
- Carry change for an emergency phone call.
- Consider carrying a whistle or shriek alarm.
- Always wear your glasses or contacts.
- Stay Alert, especially if you are in a strange area. Don't walk or jog wearing headphones.